UNITED
NATIONS

A

General Assembly

Distr.
GENERAL

A/RES/45/108
21 March 1991

Forty-fifth session
Agenda item 100

RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

[on the report of the Third Committee (A/45/756)]

45/108. Review of the functioning and programme of work of the United Nations in crime prevention and criminal justice

The General Assembly,

Aware of the responsibility assumed by the United Nations in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice in pursuance of Economic and Social Council resolution 155 C (VII) of 13 August 1948 and General Assembly resolution 415 (V) of 1 December 1950,

Recalling its resolutions 40/32 of 29 November 1985, 41/107 of 4 December 1986, 42/59 of 30 November 1987, 43/99 of 8 December 1988 and 44/72 of 8 December 1989, and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1986/11 of 21 May 1986, 1987/53 of 28 May 1987, 1988/44 of 27 May 1988 and 1989/68 of 24 May 1989, and taking note of Council resolution 1990/27 of 24 May 1990,

Recognizing the increasingly transnational character and dimensions of crime and also recognizing that the new, organized and sophisticated forms of crime call for concerted international action,

Alarmed by the high human and material costs of crime and aware that its consequences involve a substantial drain on the economies of Member States, and loss and damage to the victims of crime,

Convinced of the urgent need for more effective and responsive international mechanisms to assist countries and facilitate joint strategies in areas of mutual concern,

Noting that the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, in its resolution 10/1 of 31 August 1988, 1/ requested its Chairman to appoint a sub-committee to provide an overview of the magnitude of the problem of crime in its economic, criminological, social and juridical aspects, to assess the most efficient means of stimulating practical international action in support of Member States and, in particular, the role of the United Nations in that regard, and to make recommendations to the Committee, at its eleventh session, concerning the most effective mechanisms for the implementation of the conclusions of the overview, and noting that a report on these matters was prepared by the sub-committee appointed by the Chairman, which was considered, reviewed, revised and approved by the Committee by its resolution 11/3 of 16 February 1990, 2/ at its eleventh session,

Noting also that the General Assembly, in its resolution 44/72, invited the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, at its eleventh session, to give priority attention to the conclusions and recommendations of its sub-committee and to consider appropriate follow-up thereto by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control entitled "The need for the creation of an effective international crime and justice programme" 3/ and noting the endorsement of the report by the Eighth Congress, as well as the deliberations of the Congress thereon, 4/

1. Decides to establish an intergovernmental working group, which, on the basis of the report of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control entitled "The need for the creation of an effective international crime and justice programme", would produce a report elaborating proposals for an effective crime prevention and criminal justice programme and suggesting how that programme could most appropriately be implemented, and, accordingly, requests the President of the General Assembly, in consultation with the chairmen of the regional groups, to appoint no more than thirty Member States on the basis of the principle of equitable geographical distribution to constitute the membership of the working group;

2. Invites Member States, in consultation with the Secretary-General and the Chairman of the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, to convene an early ministerial meeting:

1/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1988, Supplement No. 10 (E/1988/20), chap. I, sect. C.

2/ Ibid., 1990, Supplement No. 10 (E/1990/31), chap. I, sect. D.

3/ E/1990/31/Add.1.

4/ See A/CONF.144/28, chap. IV.

(a) To consider the report of the intergovernmental working group in order to decide what the future crime prevention and criminal justice programme should be;

(b) To consider, in this context, the possible need for a convention or other international instrument to develop the content, structure and dynamics of that programme, including mechanisms for setting priorities, securing the implementation of the programme and monitoring the results achieved;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in preparation for the ministerial meeting, to assess the possible implications of the programme proposed by the intergovernmental working group for the resources and organization of the Secretariat and to report thereon to the ministerial meeting and to the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control;

4. Also requests the Secretary-General to take all practical measures to ensure rapid implementation of General Assembly resolutions 42/59 and 44/72 and Economic and Social Council resolutions 1986/11, 1987/53, 1989/68 and 1990/27, in so far as they relate to the strengthening and upgrading of the status of the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, taking into account the demands on the Branch that will be created by the preparations for the meeting of the intergovernmental working group and the ministerial meeting and by the current and expected programme, including the conclusions and recommendations of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders;

5. Invites Member States to provide active support and assistance for the development of an effective international crime prevention and criminal justice programme and of viable mechanisms for implementing it;

6. Decides that the conclusions and recommendations of the ministerial meeting should be brought to the attention of the General Assembly, under the item entitled "Crime prevention and criminal justice", for appropriate action.

68th plenary meeting
14 December 1990